DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1968.

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1968 - 69.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

R. P. MATKIN, ESQ., J.P., C.C.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

J. R. POINTER, ESQ.

Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman - Mr. C. D. Cooper
Vice-Chairman - Mr. S. Wheelton

Mrs. G.E. Goodman, Messrs. J. E. Harrison, J. E. Hartwright, G. A. Moutrie, C. Richardson, J. Williamson, J. Wythes, J.P., and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council (Ex Officio)

Public Health Officers of the Council

L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

R. F. Fry, M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.C., M.A.P.H.I., Engineer & Surveyor, Chief Public Health Inspector.

D. G. Carter, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Deputy Engineer & Surveyor, Public Health Inspector.

K. J. Ramsden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector

M. Johns, M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector.

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Rural District Council Offices,
31 Ombersley Street,
Droitwich.

Telephone : Droitwich 2288.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Goodman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifteenth Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December 1968.

The Vital Statistics presented in Sections A & F are very satisfactory and indicate that the health of the community remains good. Only twenty-four cases of Measles were notified during the year; measles vaccination was commenced in June and 183 injections given during the second half of the year ((page 8). Although full protective cover of the child population has by no means been reached, it is hoped that in future years this will be achieved and the disease will die out. I strongly recommend the use of the Vaccine which is available at all County Clinics or from the General Practitioners.

One particularly controversial event was the possible re-opening of the Waresley boreholes by the North West Worcestershire Water Board which was the subject of a Public Enquiry in Hartlebury Village Hall in April 1968. It is a pity that the parishioners will have to endure hard water in the future but I feel that the Minister's decision to allow this application was right in view of the fact that there are ever increasing demands on the water resources of this country and water should be extracted wherever possible (see page 13).

The other item of interest is the Caravan Survey published by the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector in November. I have not published his figures in full as they were rather complicated, but the general position can be seen on pages 20 and 21. I am pleased to see that the Council are taking steps to legalise the position of many unauthorised vans and sites, but feel certain that the public health problems on the ground will not be solved until provision is made for a Council-owned site for permanent caravan dwellers and one as winter quarters for gypsies.

Some good work has been carried out by our Public Health Inspectors, Mr. Johns has worked hard on Food Hygiene and the Caravan Survey and Mr. Ramsden on Refuse Collection and Sewage Maintenance with good effect.

I wish to thank all members of the Staff for their support during the year.

I remain Mr. Chairman,

Your obedient servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1968.

(according to International Statistical Classification of Disease)

	Males	Females
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	1	-
" " - lung, bronchus	9	3
" " - breast	-	4
" " - uterus	-	1
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	11	7
Anaemias	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-
Hypertensive Disease	3	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	28	12
Other forms of Heart Disease	1	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	18
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	3
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1
Asthma	-	1
Other Diseases of Respratory System	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	
Other Diseases, genito-urinary system	-	3
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	3
All other accidents	2	2
Suicide and self-inflected injuries	1	-
TOTAL	82	- 76

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA.

A. County Health Services,
The following services are provided by the County Council in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

The District is served by the following Clinics -

Infant Welfare Centres
Baptist Hall, Droitwich - open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.
Memorial Hall, Ombersley - open on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.
Parish Hall, Hanbury - open on the 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Village Hall, Crowle - open on the 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath - open on 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.
Village Hall, Wychbold - open on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Parish Hall, Hartlebury - open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and other baby foods may be obtained at these centres. A doctor is usually in attendance; a fully qualified Health Visitor is always present.

Antenatal Clinics.
It is now County policy that antenatal cases should be cared for as far as possible by their own doctor. Clinics are available however, at which expectant mothers are encouraged to attend regularly in order to meet the midwife, receive health education, and carry out antenatal exercises under the direction of a physiotherapist.

Baptist Hall, Droitwich - open 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2 p.m.
Recreation Road, Bromsgrove - open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.
Coventry Street, Kidderminster - open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

Midwifery (Section 23)
The services of a County midwife are available without charge to care for mothers during pregnancy, confinement and for a period of ten days afterwards. She should be booked as early as possible in order to receive adequate instruction for the confinement. Visits are paid to the home and examinations carried out monthly in co-operation with the doctor, who will arrange hospital consultations if necessary. Free dental treatment is available during this period and may be arranged through the County Dental Officer.

Health Visiting and Home Nursing (Sections 24 and 25).

After the first ten days the Health Visitor takes over responsibility for the care of the baby from the midwife. She is a trained nurse who has received additional instruction in child care, maintenance of health and prevention of disease, and is able to offer guidance to the mother until the child goes to school. Particular attention is paid to premature babies and those placed for adoption or with foster parents. The Health Visitor also acts as school nurse and being an experienced medico-social worker is able to give advice to the adult members of the family on personal problems related to physical or mental ill-health.

The District Nurse is available to act on the instructions of the general practitioner or hospital and when a patient is discharged to make arrangements for domicillary care. She carries out nursing procedures and may be called upon in an emergency. In most instances the District Nurse is also the Midwife and acts as Health Visitor but in urban areas it is sometimes more convenient to split their duties.

The following nurses are working in Droitwich Rural District - Miss U. Eldridge, Miss E. Hill, and Miss T. Mann - Health Visitors - Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Road, Droitwich. Tel: Droitwich 3328.

Miss Eldridge - Hampton Lovett, Cutnall Green.

Miss Hill - Primsland, Newland, Hadzor, Tibberton, Crowle, Warndon, Sale Green, part Claines and Bevere.

Miss Mann - Stoke Works, Wychbold, Elmbridge, Crutch Lane, Westwood.

Nurse Cracklow DN/MW. - 7 Old Turnpike Road, Crowle - Tel: Upton Snodsbury 259.

Nurse Williams DN/MW/HV. - Nurse's House, Droitwich Road, Hanbury - Tel: Hanbury 209

Nurse Nash DN/MW/HV. - 8 Perrycroft Close, Fernhill Heath - Tel: Fernhill Heath 304.

Nurse Mills DN/MW/HV. - 14 Appletree Walk, Ombersley - Tel: Ombersley 341.

Nurse Smith DN/MW (Relief Nurse). - 64 Oakland Avenue, Droitwich - Tel: Droitwich 2802.

Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Vaccination against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis and Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus are carried out free of charge at any of the County Clinics or by the patient's own doctor.

The following inoculations were completed during 1968.
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

1. Smallpox Vaccination

Number of persons who received primary vaccination during the year	209	(175)
" " " who were re-vaccinated during the year	11	(13)

2. Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered direct from the County Health Department, Love's Grove, Castle Street, Worcester and details are published in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Sabin Vaccine is now used, being administered orally in syrup or on a lump of sugar. Three doses are administered to babies at 6 - 9 mths. and a fourth dose at 5 years of age. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

3. Diphtheria Immunisation(including Tetanus)

Number of children who received the full course during the year	294	(311)
" " " " " re-inforcing doses	481	(457)

4. Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course during the year	246	(257)

5. Measles Vaccination

Number of children who received a Primary dose during the year	183	(N.A.)

Ambulance Service (Section 27)

Cases of illness or sudden and urgent illness are responded to irrespective of the source of the call. All that is necessary is to ask the telephone operator for Ambulance after dialling 999. The Service is under radio control from Worcester and ambulance stations are strategically situated throughout the County.

Requests for hospital cars should be made to the County Ambulance Officer, who will decide whether this form of transport is suitable. Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care (Section 28)

Convalescent care is provided for children and adults not requiring treatment. This type of recuperative holiday is frequently recommended and persons are required to contribute according to their means. Medical comforts depots are maintained in varous parts of the County by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society. Requests for nursing equipment, such as bedpans, pulleys, hoists, etc., should be made to the District Nurse or County Health Department.

Persons suffering from Tuberculosis may be assisted in many ways. Tuberculosis Health Visitors work from the Chest Clinic and will assist patients to make the best use of services available. Occupational therapy is available for patients suffering from lengthy illnesses or who are undergoing prolonged convalescence. A chiropody scheme is now in operation for aged and handicapped persons, and is being extended. A Health Education Organiser has also been appointed to provide instruction on health matters in an attempt to reduce illness. This is particularly important in relation to accidents in the home, food hygiene and cancer.

Domestic Help (Section 29)

The Home Help Service has recently been reorganised by the County Council on an area basis. Enquiries relating to the Rural District should be addressed to - Mrs. A. Friend, Area Organiser, Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Street, Droitwich. The service provides domestic help for the aged, in sickness and for maternity cases during confinement.

Mental Health (Section 51)

The Mental Health Service has been expanded to deal with the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1959. The Act abolishes the term mental deficiency and introduces the term "mental disorder" which includes subnormality, severe subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved medical officers and hospital services.

Statutory duties of the County Council include -

(a) The provision of residential accommodation.
(b) The provision of training or occupation centres (available at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Lower Wick).
(c) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
(d) the provision of ancillary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

Welfare Services (National Assistance Act 1948)

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer.

The following facilities are available -

(a) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves in their own homes.
(b) temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
(c) special services for blind persons.
(d) special services for deaf and dumb persons.
(e) special assistance for other handicapped persons.

School Health Service (Education Act 1944.)

The County Medical Officer is also Principal School Medical Officer. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary schools in the district at regular intervals.

Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Special visual acuity and colour tests are given at 7 - 8 years old, children in need of attention being referred to the School Oculist.

Routine testing of hearing is now carried out using a pure-tone audiometer and children with defective hearing are referred to special clinics for further investigation.

The services of a Speech Therapist are available and orthopaedic defects are kept under supervision by the Orthopaedic Sister.

Children with behaviour disorders or other problems are seen at the Child Guidance Clinic, Love's Grove, Worcester.

School Dental Service

The Dental Health of all children in maintained schools is supervised at regular intervals, inspections being carried out on the premises. Subsequently treatment is carried out at the nearest fixed clinic, or in one of the mobile clinics now available. Clinics are available at Bromsgrove, Stourport and Kidderminster.

County Analyst.

The County Analyst is available to examine public water supplies, sewage effluent, milk, food and drug samples. The arrangements for the routine sampling of all milk supplies is in the hands of the County Public Health Inspector.

B. Hospital Services.

These services are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

1. General hospitals with casualty departments are situated at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.
2. Maternity beds are available at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.
3. Infectious diseases are usually admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester where beds are also available for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Special cases, may, however, be sent to Little Bromwich Hospital, Birmingham.
4. The elderly and chronic sick are accommodated at Shrub Hill Worcester, Bromsgrove or Blakebrook Kidderminster.
5. Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Barnsley Hall and Lea Hospital Bromsgrove.
6. St. John's Hospital and Highfield Hospital Droitwich, are National hospitals for the treatment of rheumatic diseases. Spa treatment is also available through the out-patient department at the Brine Baths, or privately.
7. A Thoracic surgery unit has been established at Hill Top Hospital Bromsgrove, dealing mainly with congenital heart lesions in children.

8. Laboratories are available in all General Hospitals, but at Worcester Royal Infirmary a branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service has been established. This organisation, with reference laboratories in London and elsewhere, is designed to assist local authorities in their investigations into outbreaks of communicable disease.

9. Venereal Diseases
Venereal diseases are diagnosed and treated at a special out-patient department (adjacent to the Chest Clinic at the Worcester Royal Infirmary). Sessions are held from 5 - 7 p.m. on Mondays (both sexes - separate departments) on Thursdays 2 - 4 p.m. (women) and Fridays 2 - 4 p.m. (men).

C. General Medical Services

Persons arriving in the district and wishing to register with a general practitioner may obtain a list of names and addresses of all the doctors available, at any post office.

The services of dentists, opticians and pharmacists practicing in the district come under the control of the Worcestershire Executive Council, 29 Foregate Street, Worcester, to whom enquiries should be made.

S E C T I O N C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supplies

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company are the statutory water undertakers for the greater part of Droitwich Rural District. Twenty out of twenty-two parishes are now supplied by them. The remaining two parishes are supplied as follows :-

(1) Warndon - by an extension from the Worcester City mains (controlled by the Council).
(2) Hartlebury - by the North West Worcestershire Water Board.

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Area	Supplied by	No. of Houses on Mains	Estimated Population	Total (mid. 68) Population
20 Parishes	E.W.W.Co.	3186	11,122	13,245
Hartlebury	N.W.W.Board	580	1,885	2,370
Warndon	Droitwich C.	10	35	65
Totals		3,776	13,042	15,680

This indicates that approximately 83% of the population are supplied with Mains Water. The remainder rely upon shallow wells, apart from a few farms where boreholes have been sunk for agricultural purposes. 4 out of a total of 14 samples taken from wells during 1968 were reported as unfit for drinking and appropriate steps taken to protect the consumer.

Three samples taken from the Westwood Park supply during the year were satisfactory.

Five bateriological results are submitted as follows taken at source from their supplies and one from Hartlebury Parish in relation to the North West Worcestershire supply :-

WATER AS DELIVERED INTO SERVICE ON 22ND OCTOBER 1968

Marked	Number of colonies growing on Agar 2 days at 37° C.	3 days at 22°C	Probable Number of Coliform Bacilli	Probable Number of	Remarks
Per	1 ml.	1 ml.	100 ml.	100 ml.	
No.1 Borehole Burcot P/Stn.	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	satisfactory
No's. 1 & 3 Boreholes Sugarbrook P/Station	1	1	Nil	Nil	"
No. 1 Borehole Washingstocks P/Station	4	2	Nil	Nil	"
No.1 Borehole Wildmoor P/Station	2	4	Nil	Nil	"
No.2 Borehole Brockhill P/Station	1	4	Nil	Nil	"
Tap - Martyn's Saw Mills, Hartlebury	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	"

Waresley Boreholes, Hartlebury

On 10th August 1967 the North West Worcestershire Water Board applied for an Order under Section 23 of the Water Act 1945 to extend and maintain two boreholes on land to the west of the Kidderminster to Worcester Road in the parish of Hartlebury and also to construct and maintain a water-tower at Bishop's Wood in order to supplement the water supply to the Parish and surrounding areas.

These boreholes, known as the "Sadler boreholes"had been used up to 1956 when the owner decided to close down and our Surveyor had to make a quick decision to lay mains in order to obtain water from Bewdley via Stourport. Subsequently this system of supply was handed over to the Board on the appointed day (1962).

The inhabitants of the Parish felt that the water would be very hard compared with what they were receiving and that this would be a retrograde

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step. Strong representations were made to the Ministry and eventually a Public Enquiry was held on 11th April 1968.

Evidence was submitted to show that the total hardness for the Waresley borehole would be in the nature of 304 p.p.m. whereas the Bewdley supply gave approximately 120 p.p.m. Other consumers in the North West Worcestershire Board's area of supply received water with 396 p.p.m. total hardness. Despite all complaints it seemed inevitable that the new boreholes would have to be accepted.

Since the Enquiry the Hartlebury Parish Council have made an attempt to get the parish transferred to the East Worcestershire Water Works Company's area of supply without success. The Order has now been confirmed and the boreholes will be re-opened in due course.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Fernhill Heath - major extensions to the Sewage Disposal Works, as mentioned in my 1967 report were completed during 1968. The Plant is now capable of dealing with a dry weather flow of approx. 90,000 galls per day and should be satisfactory for a population up to 3,000. This is indeed fortunate because a new estate has been built between Tapenhall Road and Station Road and further development behind "The Cedars" is nearing completion.

Crowle - at the end of 1967, as a result of fairly steady private development over a number of years around Froxmere [illegible] the sewage disposal works was in a condition of overload. The Plant had been constructed in 1955 to cater for a population of 600, whereas 700 persons appeared to be contributing towards the flow. Further development was envisaged both on the Froxmere and Orchard estates so that ultimately the Consulting Engineers planned for an extra 100 houses, or approximately 350 persons making an ultimate population of 1,050. This will give an estimated dry weather flow of 36,750 gallons per day. The works will have to be virtually duplicated by the following additions:-

(1) Two horizontal flow settling tanks giving a total capacity of 19,000 gals, or 12.4 hours retention at D.W.F.
(2) One storm tank giving a total capacity of 10,000 gals or 6.5 hours retention at D.W.F.
(3) One percolating filter giving a total capacity of 522 cu. yds. of media or 70 gals. per cu. yd. D.W.F.
(4) Three humus tanks giving a total capacity of 9,000 gals. or 5.9 hours retention at D.W.F.
(5) Six sludge drying beds giving a total area of 348 square yds. or 3.0 persons per square yard.

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In view of various difficulties with the petrol pumps, a decision has now been made to change-over to a three phase electric power supply and this work will be done at the same time as the extensions. So far no work has been started, but careful maintenance has resulted in an improved effluent which should satisfy the Severn River Authority.

Cutnall Green - a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme has been required for this village for a number of years now, as private development began along School Lane, New Road and off the B4192 about 1960 and has gone on slowly since, adding about 20 dwellings. Also twelve extra Council houses were built bringing a total of thirty-two. The only efficient treatment plant catered for the Council houses together with any private dwellings that could be satisfactorily drained into it. Unfortunately a ridge running roughly east-west along a line close to School Lane has prevented other dwellings being included and most of the development to the south drains into a public sewer which discharges into open country to the east of New House Farm. The School Drainage also needed to be catered for.

The Consulting Engineer has chosen a site for the new disposal works on Field No.33 (O.S. Map XXII.5), which is close to the Droitwich - Kidderminster railway line in the parish of Hampton Lovett. Conventional treatment plant will be used comprising pumphouse, balancing tank, settling tank, dosing syphon, one percolating filter, one humus tank and six sludge drying beds. The estimated D.W.F. is 15,000 g.p.d. for a population of 830 and an extra 31 houses have been allowed for in the future.

Sewers to be laid are as follows:-

(a) 9" sewer running east from the Disposal Works, north to Broad Common Road and continuing across fields to the Droitwich-Kidderminster Road (A-B-C).
(b) 6" sewer running northwards to terminate near the Police House (.
(c) 6" sewer running west and then north through fields to terminate in Moat Farm Lane (C-E).
(d) 6" branch sewer running west from the Disposal Works and then north-east to Council Houses at Broad Common (A-A1).
(e) 6" sewer running east from the Council's existing treatment plant to the main Droitwich-Kidderminster Road (W-X).
(f) 6" sewer running south along Droitwich-Kidderminster Road and then east for some 150 yards along Bryans Green Road (X-Y).
(g) 6" sewer running north along Droitwich-Kidderminster Road and terminating a short distance along the Pursh'll Green Road (X-Z).

It will be necessary to construct a Sewage Pumping Station on the site of the old Works to pump from system W-Z into E.

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A Private Enquiry was held on 18th February 1969 by Mr. Ellis (Ministry Inspector). The scheme has now been approved and is waiting to go out to Tender.

The most urgent village schemes to be carried out in the future (according to the Surveyor's list of priorities) are Himbleton, Stock and Bradley, Ladywood, Sale Green and Earls Common.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal

A weekly system of Refuse Collection has continued to operate in all built-up areas, whereas a fortnightly collection is operated in the more rural parts of the district.

As far as possible all Council Houses have been provided with paper sacks and holders and this facility has been offered to private householders also. The sacks are provided free of charge. Generally the scheme is operating very satisfactorily and there have been few complaints.

All refuse in the district was disposed of on the central tip at Briar Coppice, Westwood during the year and a scheme was operated whereby the Borough Council's refuse was also dealt with there. The Chaseside Super Loadmaster 1,000 did some good work and despite a nasty fire, the tip was kept in good condition.

Unfortunately it is necessary to close this Tip to provide an area for residential development for the Borough of Droitwich in the years ahead. At 1st January 1969 Planning Permission had been obtained for a new tip at Jacob's Ladder, Claines, on a temporary basis and the change-over was being effected.

Ultimately it is hoped to provide a permanent site at Hanbury Wharf and negotiations took place with the Company on these lines during the year.

4. Public Health Inspections

The following routine inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during 1968 :-

A. Housing Act 1957

Section 9 (Repairs)	112	
Section 16 (Unfit Premises)	51	
Section 42 (Clearance area)	-	
Section 76 (Overcrowding)	13	
	176	(84)

B. Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961

Nuisances from Premises	51	
Nuisances from Animals	13	
Nuisances from Refuse	52	
Nuisances from Dust, Effluvia	33	
Nuisances from Workplaces	3	
Nuisances from Noise	5	
	157	(81)

C. Drainage Problems (Sewage and Water)

Obstructions	65	
Cesspools and Septic Tank	52	
Ditches	95	
Drainage Tests	9	
Inspection of Wells and Water Samples	27	
Pollution of Rivers, etc.,	8	
	256	(254)

D. Food and Drugs Act 1955

Slaughterhouse	203	
Bakehouses	11	
Shops	28	
Cafes	12	
Vans	11	
Other Food Premises	42	
Ice Cream and other Food Samples	16	
	323	(350)

E. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Inspections	16	
	16	(37)

F. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

Residential Sites	106	
Holiday Sites	41	
Camping Sites, etc.,	23	
Unauthorised Caravans	84	
	254	(90)

G. Other Inspections

	51	
	51	(28)
GRAND TOTAL	1,233	(924)

(N.B. figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

5. Rodent Control - 1968

Regular inspections of dwelling houses and business premises are carried out throughout the district. Quite a number of Agricultural contracts are held and treatment under such agreements form no small proportion of the work.

The analysis of work carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, is as follows :-

	Type of Property	
Properties other than sewers	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in District	4,951	750
2. a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	415	28
b) Number infested by (1) Rats	70	23
(2) Mice	14	1
3. a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,100	86
b) Number infested by (1) Rats	173	30
(2) Mice	31	4
Sewers		
4. Number of Sewers infested by Rats during the year -	NIL	

6. Factory Inspections

The Factory Act 1961 places duties on the local authority in relation to sanitary provisions in all factories and to environmental and hygiene provisions in those factories not using mechanical power.

There is also a duty to discover cases where Outwork has been placed following which information is obtained from the factory concerned.

Part I of the Act.

(1) Inspection for purposes of provision as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	No. of Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	13	-	-
(c) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (including out-workers premises)	30	10	-	-
TOTAL	63	23	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found .. .. NIL

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork - Nil Return.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

1. Housing Programme

(a) Council Houses

No. of new dwellings completed by the 31st December 1968 -

One bedroomed flats, Fernhill Heath					3
Two	"	"	"	"	27
Three	"	houses	"	"	12
Four	"	"	"	"	2
				Total =	44

(b) Private Houses

(i) No. of Private dwellings completed during 1968 .. 117

(ii) " " " " under construction at 31st December 1968 87

(c) Improvements and Conversions to Private Houses during 1968 - (figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(i) Discretionary Grants

Applications received	9	(17)
" approved	8	(17)
No. of dwellings involved	8	(20)
Applications withdrawn or refused	1	(1)
Total amount of grant-aided work	£10,789	(£17,420)
Amount of grants approved	£ 3,153	(£ 6,868)
Average grant per dwelling	£394	(£361)
Amount of Grant paid during year	£ 7,315	(£ 8,851)

(ii) Standard Grants

Applications received and approved	31	(29)
Maximum grants payable..	£ 6,347	(£ 6,205)
Amount of grants paid during year	£ 4,511	(£ 5,628)

2. Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act 1957)

(a)(i) Number of dwellings statutorily overcrowded at 31st December 1968 5
(ii) " " families dwelling therein 6
(iii) " " persons dwelling therein 43

(b)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. Nil
(ii) " " persons concerned in such cases .. .. Nil
(iii) " " houses again overcrowded after being previously so relieved .. .. Nil

(c) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year 2

3. Slum Clearance

Slum Clearance Position at 31st December 1968

Demolition	Up to 1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	Total
1) Notices of Time & Place served	132	10	18	8	3	34	7	5	1	218
2) Demolition Orders served	107	6	7	6	7	29	6	3	1	172
3) Undertakings accepted from owners	25	-	4	-	-	4	-	1	-	34
4) Deferred or awaiting decision	-	1	5	2	1	1	1	1	-	12
5) Demolished or closed	33	12	7	4	13	8	-	1	2	80
6) Clearance Areas (cleared)	7	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	27

4. Caravans

A caravan survey was carried out during 1968 and the Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector reported to a joint Committee of Planning and Health members in November.

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In addition to the 420 Caravans on established sites which had planning permission and are shown on the table below, there were 293 unauthorised vans discovered scattered throughout the district. It must be admitted that the Clarelands Holiday site has not been developed, but at the same time the Chateau Impney site has not been cleared despite the expiration of Planning Permission in March 1968. Furthermore, quite a number of other vans have come to light since the survey. It is probable that there were approximately 660 caravans in the district at 31.12.68 rather than 713 shown above.

Of the 293 caravans dealt with in the Survey, 125 were found to be stored, 130 used as full-time residential and only 20 for holiday purposes.

Excluding a number considered to have an "Established Planning Use" there were 118 unauthorised vans against which enforcement action could be taken. In the first instance it was decided to write to all the site owners and caravan occupiers in this catagory, requesting them to submit Planning Applications. Failure to do so would result in action being taken by the Council.

The principle of establishing a Council-owned caravan site has been agreed and a suitable area is being sought. Also to be in line with Government policy, an attempt is being made to find more permanent accommodation for gypsies in collaboration with the farmers on whose land they reside.

A. Permanent Residential Sites

	No. of Vans	Permitted
1. Sunnyside, Claines - just outside the Worcester City Boundary on main A38 road	12	
2. "Eagle & Sun", Hanbury Wharf - approx. 1 mile east of Droitwich on Stratford road	20	
3. Dunhampton - to rear of Robert's Garage, on main A449 road to Kidderminster	24	
4. "Fruiterer's Arms", Ombersley - ½ mile west of main A449 road to Uphampton	20	
Total =	76	76

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B. Holiday Sites

	Permitted No. of Vans	
1. "Fruiterer's Arms", Ombersley (as above)	30	
2. Wharf Hotel, Holt Fleet - on right side of main road approaching bridge over river Severn from Ombersley	44	
3. Brick's Farm, Holt Fleet - on right side of main road approaching bridge over river Severn	107	
4. Winnall Farm, Winnall, Nr. Stourport - east bank of river Severn, 2 miles south of Stourport	48	
5. Mutton Hall, Boreley - east bank of river Severn opposite the Lenchford Hotel	10	
6. Mill House, Hawford - on main A449 road, 4 miles north of Worcester	15	
7. "Clarelands", Titton, Nr. Stourport (not yet developed	90	
Total =	344	344
Grand Total		420

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Food Premises

The following categories of Food Premises are found in the Rural District :-

Butchers Shops	1
Bakehouses	3
Cafes	7
Food Shops	45
Food Factory	1
Clubs, Hotels & Licenced Premises .	52
Total	109

Inspections carried out are shown on page 16 and have decreased somewhat over the previous year. It is regretted that quite a number of premises fitted with wash-basins do not always comply with Section 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 in that they do not provide at all times, soap, nail brush and clean towel.

Sinks provided for the washing of food or equipment generally appear more satisfactory.

(i)	number	of	premises		109
(ii)	"	"	"	fitted to comply with Regulation 16	77
(iii)	"	"	"	to which Regulation 19 applies	108
(iv)	"	"	"	fitted to comply with Regulation 19	105

2. Meat Inspection

There is one licenced Slaughterhouse in the district at Ombersley, the Public Health Inspectors have a rota for inspection and 100% of carcases are always inspected. 1,848 animals were inspected during 1968, compared with 1,949 the previous year and very little disease was found.

Further details are shown on page 24.

3. Poultry Inspection

This has hardly been feasable until this year due to shortage of staff, but an attempt is now being made to produce the figures required by the Ministry :-

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(i) Number of poultry processing premises within the district		8
(ii) " " visits to these premises		8
(iii) Total number of birds processed during the year ..		4,226
(iv) Types of birds processed -	turkeys	2,930
	broilers	672
	ducks	312
	cockerels	312
(v) Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption		Nil
(vi) Weight of poultry condemned as unfit		Nil

(vii) Comments:- there are a large number of farms in the Rural District where poultry is slaughtered on a small scale particularly at the festive season, but it was felt better to concentrate on those premises where regular business is carried out.

4. Milk & Dairies & Ice Cream

The Milk and Dairies Regulations are mainly administered by the County Public Health Inspector. There are two pasteurisation plants in the District and the following samples of milk were taken from a variety of sources during 1968.

Pasteurised milk	19
Sterilized milk	0
Raw (Tuberculin Tested) milk	8
Total	27

Two samples failed the methylene blue test and appropriate action was taken. In relation to Brucella Abortus infection no positive samples were found and no action was necessary during the year.

There are fifty-five premises registered for the sale of pre-packed Ice-cream, all being food premises as listed in Section E. 1. and inspected during routine work. A number of samples are taken from time to time, particularly if refrigeration plant has broken down.

5. Food and Drugs

Worcestershire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the district. Food and Drugs (Weights and Measures) Inspectors operate from Stourport, submitting samples to the County Analyst who reports his findings quarterly to the County Health Committee.

6. Meat Inspection - 1968.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	140	9	1323	376
Number inspected	140	9	1323	376
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	Nil	5	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	10.7%	Nil	0.3%	1%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	1%
Cysticercosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION F

Incidence of Infectious Disease

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Disease in relation to Age in the Rural District during 1968.

Disease	Under one year	1 - 15 yrs	16 - 25 yrs	Adult	Total
1. Scarlet Fever	-	3	-	-	3
2. Measles	-	24	-	-	24
3. Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	1
4. Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
5. Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1
6. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
7. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
8. Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-
9. Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	1	1
10. Infective Jaundice	-	1	1	2	4

Tuberculosis 1968

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register are as follows :-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Cases on the Register at 1st January 1968	12	8	1	-
Additions - New Cases	-	1	-	-
Additions - Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Deductions (Recovered, Died or left district)	1	2	1	-
Cases on the Register at 31st December 1968	11	7	-	-

B.C.G. Vaccination

The County Council operate a scheme for the preventive inoculation of all children leaving school (at 12 - 13 years old). This is a valuable protective measure against Tuberculosis and is doing much to reduce the number of cases on the Register.

After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire

Two meetings of this Committee were held at the Shire Hall during the year. Not a great deal of work has been done as the number of cases requiring assistance has been falling annually. Never-the-lesss, the Tuberculosis Health Visitors do find cases whose needs are outside the scope of the statutory bodies and then turn to the Committee, whose help is greatly appreciated.

THE END.